LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

No claims are canceled, amended or added by this paper. The following is a listing of claims pending in the application.

1. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:
an optical fiber receiving structure; and
a fiber stop attached to said receiving structure; and
wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction approximately the same as the index of refraction of a core of said optical fiber.

2. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a window.

3. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a glass material.

4. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.

5. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a lens.

6. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

7. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

8 **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

9. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A means for coupling comprising:
means for receiving an optical fiber;
means for stopping a received optical fiber; and
wherein said means for stopping a received optical fiber implements an index of refraction approximately equal to an index of refraction of the received optical fiber.

11. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a window.

12. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a glass material.

13. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.

14. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a lens.

15. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

16. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

17. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

18. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

19. – 29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:

a sleeve;

a window situated at a first end of said sleeve; and

a lens situated at a surface of said window opposite of a surface of said window proximate to said sleeve.

31. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 30, wherein:

said sleeve has a diameter so that an optical fiber can be inserted with an end stopped by the surface of said window proximate to said sleeve; and

said window has an index of refraction about the same as the index of refraction of optical fiber.

32. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is a ball lens.

33. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is formed on the surface of said window.

34. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a light source proximate to said lens.